

ORIGIN/ACTION

INR-13

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Approved For Release 2000/09/11 : CIA-RDP78-05597A000100010017-7

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TO : Department of State 1063 JAN 23 AM 8 56

Document No. NDLING INDICATOR

Review of this document by CIA has

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Authority: HR 70-2

☐ It contains nothing of CIA interest

Date 25 NOV 1980

Reviewer 059485

DATE: Jan. 22, 1963

FROM : American Embassy, KARACHI

SUBJECT: Evaluation of the NIS Program

REF : CA-6275

In response to the Department's circular airgram under reference, the Embassy has conducted a survey of local users of the National Intelligence Survey (NIS) with particular reference to the specific questions listed by the Department. The following is a summation of the responses by these end users, arranged in the order of questions given, followed by a general statement of the utility of the NIS as the Embassy sees it and recommendations for possible changes in the structure of the NIS.

a) On the whole the Embassy has found the NIS in its present form of only limited usefulness. This has varied from chapter to chapter and from one end user to another. Where time has permitted (and this has not often been the case) newly arrived officers have found the NIS a useful reference for basic indoctrination purposes. However, the size and unwieldiness of the NIS, its high security classification and the dated nature of much of the material has also limited the usefulness of the NIS in this respect. Some chapters have clearly been of more value than others. Thus some of the economic and sociological sections are fairly good source material, even when some years old. Some of the military attaches have found the military geography and other technical chapters of much utility as a source and reference guide. The Naval Attache considers the sections within his particular field of interest quite necessary as a guide to what is needed in the way of reporting. The political sections have been of virtually no utility, among other things because most of them are almost ten years out of date.

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Drafted by: LBL/ingen/ln 1/21/63

Contents and Classification Approved by:

Clear (in draft) CAS, ARMA, NAVY, EON, USIS, Mr. Hall
(in substance) AIRA

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The Embassy does not anticipate possible situations in which it might have special uses for the NIS, except possibly in connection with serious crises involving neighboring countries.

b) The Embassy doubts that the NIS, as presently available and constituted, would be of more than marginal use in the event of a critical situation developing in this area. Serious situations have occurred over the past several years with both Afghanistan and India. In none of these instances has the Embassy felt necessary to draw upon the NIS for this or neighboring countries. It is possible, should actual hostilities break out involving Pakistan, that the NIS would be of use in providing basic intelligence information about military geography, transportation and telecommunications and maps on both Pakistan and the other countries concerned. However, most of the NIS sections now available to the Embassy on these matters are so out of date as to put their usefulness for these purposes in question.

c) The Embassy finds the NIS sections, if anything, more than adequate in detail. Summary passages are of definite value to end users.

d) The Embassy has found the political sections of the NIS, except as an occasional historical reference source, to be of extremely little current use because of their greatly outdated nature. All of those sections presently available to the Embassy predate the Ayub revolution of 1958. The Embassy also doubts the potential value of sections on the political and to some extent the economic situation because of the rapidly changing nature of these subjects and because adequate reference material of this kind is usually available from current reports prepared by the Embassy.

This criticism is less valid for the sociological sections. These are of somewhat greater use for briefing and reference purposes and are not normally a subject of month to month Embassy reporting. However, these sections now available to the Embassy are also approaching ten years in age. Nevertheless we believe the sociological sections to be of considerable potential value to the Embassy.

e) The Embassy has very recently received a copy of a new Chapter I (Brief) on Pakistan dated June 1962. The Embassy believes the Brief to be highly useful as a handy briefing and reference document for both this and, if available, neighboring countries if it can be maintained annually. The same comment would apply to special supplements. Further comments on the utility of the Brief are given below.

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f) Subject to the comments noted above (and the suggestions made below) the Embassy believes the coordinated interdepartmental NIS program does have an advantage in providing basic intelligence that would not be as available through individual Departmental production. A coordinated program has the obvious advantage of helping minimize duplication of effort and of ensuring that the best intelligence available to any one agency is made available to all. However, the Embassy does feel that the kind of coordinated approach as set up in the NIS program is best applied to such technical areas as military geography, transportation, science, mapping, etc.

General Observations

The major shortcomings of the NIS as a set of documents are implicit above and well known to the Department. As a source of basic intelligence rather than as a source of information for operational requirements, the Embassy believes that the NIS program continues to be good in concept but of limited utility in practise. As presently constituted, the Embassy does not believe it to be a sufficiently current source of basic intelligence. Moreover it is often over-classified and excessively detailed, making its day to day usefulness limited at a Foreign Service post of this kind.

The Embassy suggests that the following steps might be considered as ways of increasing the utility of the NIS:

a) Concentrate the present program, time schedules and resources of the NIS on those sections of the NIS dealing with basic economic data, transportation and telecommunications, military geography, the armed forces, map and chart appraisal.

b) Eliminate or at least reduce those present sections dealing with the political and current economic situation in the country and concentrate in their place on maintaining a current chapter one (Brief), on an annual basis if possible. This Brief should concern itself primarily with the basic political and economic situation of the country but to some extent also with the sociological foundations of Pakistan society.

c) Maintain, with scheduled revisions at least every five years, a basic sociological chapter on the country concerned--written with as low a classification as possible and developed in coordination with some outside academic institution.

d) Eliminate that section dealing with biography of key personalities. This information should be readily available

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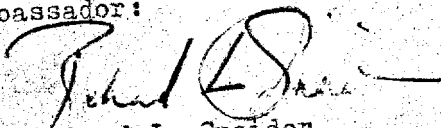
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without the NIS on a coordinated basis both in Washington and in the files of Foreign Service posts.

For the Ambassador:


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